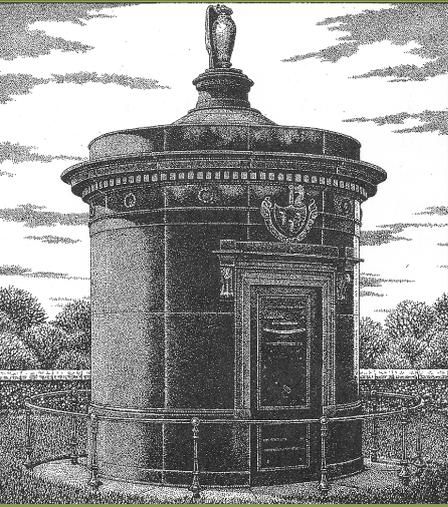


A lecture on 13 March 2012 at 7.30pm  
by Dermot Nolan, Chartered Engineer, BA BAI



# CLONBERN MAUSOLEUM

‘An extraordinary sample of Victorian engineering  
in the County Galway countryside’.

## VENUE:

Engineers Ireland,  
Clyde Road. Dublin  
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FOLLIES TRUST



The Dennis mausoleum in Clonbern, erected in 1863, is quintessentially a product of its age – the age of the industrial revolution. Similarly made cast-iron structures with a wide variety of uses were regularly displayed at the great industrial exhibitions of the period. What is unique and wonderful about this artefact is its use as a mausoleum and its location in rural North County Galway far from the centres of contemporary industry. It is puzzling also that no connection has been established between the Dennis family and the contemporary processes or loci of advanced industrial engineering.

In 2010 Dermot Nolan was appointed as consultant for conservation of the mausoleum. This lecture will outline the research and work undertaken to this amazing artefact. This structure is unique in these islands and is as much a celebration of the use of cast iron as a construction material as a monument to the life of Colonel Maurice Griffin Dennis for whom it was erected. It is rare that any professional undertakes work to a structure as unusual and extraordinary as this mausoleum and this lecture will be a rich and rewarding experience.

The origin of this project was a call by the Follies Trust for expressions of interest. Galway County Council Conservation Officer, Mairin Doddy, responded and the scheme was undertaken with funding from Civic Structures Fund and the Heritage Council. The Follies Trust published a booklet entitled *Clonbern Graveyard – its monuments and people* which outlined the conservation work and the family history as well as possible an article on the Stephens foundry in Galway. It will be on sale at the lecture.

*There is no charge for attending.*

Illustration of Dennis mausoleum, Clonbern – © Michael Craig